

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3683

S E C R E T LUSAKA 1875

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: NKOMO'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN

REF: STATE 179080 (NODIS)

1. IN ABSENCE OF JOSHUA NKOMO WHO HAS NOT RPT NOT YET RETURNED TO LUSAKA SINCE DEPARTING JULY 18 I TALKED WITH HIS AIDE EDWARD NDLOVU AT RESIDENCE ON JULY 22 AND ENDEAVORED OBTAIN FROM HIM ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL.
2. NDOLVU DEPARTING LUSAKA JULY 24 TO MEET UP WITH NKOMO IN MOGADISCIO FROM WHERE THEY WILL DEPART FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN. HE SUGGESTED REVISED, EARLIER DATES OF JULY 30 AND AUGUST 5 FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH KING AND SHAH, SCHEDULING THEM FOR WHICHEVER OF TWO DATES IS MOST CONVENIENT TO THESE CHIEFS OF STATE.
3. NDOLVU SAID NKOMO ATTACHES "GREAT IMPORTANCE" TO BOTH OF THESE VISITS AS IT APPARENT HE SEEKING LARGEST FOREIGN FINANCIAL SUPPORT EVER FOR ZIMBABWE LIBERATION FROM THESE TWO SOURCES. GENERAL THRUST OF CONVERSATION SUGGESTED REQUEST ON THESE TWO

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MIDDLE EAST LEADERS WILL BE IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THERE

WAS NO WAY OF ASSESSING FROM NDLOVU WHETHER NKOMO CONFIDENT OF THIS SUPPORT OR HAS ENDORSEMENT OF ANY AFRICAN OR OTHER STATES IN APPROACHING THESE LEADERS. STOP-OFF IN SOMALIA COULD HAVE SOME BEARING ON THIS QUESTION BUT I IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE.

4. AS TO WHAT NKOMO EXPECTS IN WAY OF "RESPONSE" FROM SECRETARY, NDLOVU SAID HE COULD ONLY CONJECTURE AS HE NOT RPT NOT A PARTY TO PRIVATE CONVERSATION WHICH NKOMO AND SECRETARY HAD AT INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL IN LUSAKA MORNING OF APRIL 27 JUST BEFORE SECRETARY DELIVERED HIS SPEECH AT STATE HOUSE. NDLOVU SAID HE "SUSPECTED" NKOMO ASKED FOR US FINANCIAL SUPPORT, BUT HE HAD NO IDEA OF SPECIFICS. NDLOVU ALSO SUSPECTS THAT NKOMO'S PRIVATE TALK WITH ASST SECTY SCHAUFLE IN LUSAKA JULY 12 MAY ALSO HAVE TOUCHED ON USG WILLINGNESS TO OFFER FINANCIAL HELP.

5. NDLOVU POINTED OUT THAT NKOMO'S MAJOR AND MOST PRESSING FINANCIAL NEEDS WERE RELATED TO PREPARATIONS FOR AND ORGANIZATION OF PARTY CONGRESS INSIDE RHODESIA IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER.

NDLOVU ALSO NOTED THAT ANC WORK RELATED TO NKOMO-SMITH NEGOTIATIONS COST PARTY 45,000 RHODESIAN DOLLARS. HE ESTIMATED THAT UPCOMING CONGRESS WOULD COST AROUND 35,000 RHODESIAN DOLLARS.

6. JUST BEFORE LEAVING NDLOVU ASKED IF ANY USG NEWS OF REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA OR IRAN COULD BE PASSED THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN MOGADISCIO. HE UNABLE TO OFFER CONTACT ADDRESS THERE AND I UNABLE TO SAY WHETHER THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO SECRETARY. WHEN HE POINTED OUT THAT MESSAGE THROUGH EMBASSY MOGADISCIO WOULD SAVE RETURN TO LUSAKA BEFORE GOING ON TO MIDDLE EAST, I SAID I WOULD REFER QUESTION TO WASHINGTON AND THAT HE MIGHT SIMPLY GIVE OUR AMBASSADOR THERE A CALL AND INQUIRE IF THERE ARE ANY MESSAGES FROM WASHINGTON FOR NKOMO WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SUBJECT OR REASON. HE SAID HE WOULD DO THAT EVEN THOUGH I CAUTIONED HIM THERE NO RPT NO ASSURANCES MESSAGE WOULD BE WAITING. IF NONE ARRIVES HE ALSO WONDERED IF OUR EMBASSIES IN DHAHRAN AND TEHRAN COULD ACCOMMODATE IN SIMILAR WAY. I SAID ONE WAY OR ANOTHER I WOULD TRY TO GET REPLY ON THIS POINTS BEFORE HE DEPARTS LUSAKA ON JULY 24. "RESPONSE"

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TO QUESTION OF US FINANCIAL HELP TO NKOMO WOULD BE EXPECTED, NDLOVU SAID, THROUGH EMBASSY LUSAKA FOLLOWING ON NKOMO'S TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST WHICH NOW MOVED UP.

7. AS NDLOVU WAS GOING TO HIS CAR HE SAID HE RECALLED FULL NAME OF NKOMO'S BIGGEST PRIVATE SUPPORTER AND BOOSTER IN THE US -- MILLIONAIRE ARTHUR KRIMM OF NEW YORK WHO IF I RECALL WAS OR STILL IS CONNECTED WITH MOTION PICTURE BUSINESS AND HAS INDEED

GIVEN NKOMO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
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